Chapter 13: Inside Hana-kun's Mind

"WHY NOT JUST GET MARRIED?"?!

HMMM.
87
TO PUT IT SIMPLY...
LET'S LIVE OUR LIVES TOGETHER, HAND IN HAND?
FWP
HE'S NOT ENTIRELY WRONG!
IT'S LIKE A LEGALLY BINDING, STRONGER VERSION OF A PROMISE.
SPIN
SPIN
UH, BUT...
THERE'S A LOT TO CONSIDER, WITH OUR LIVES AND ALL THAT!
CLANK
SPIN
HOW COME? ISN'T IT FINE TO JUST KEEP DOING THINGS THE WAY WE HAVE?
WHAT A PAIN.
EVEN IF YOU SAY IT SO CASU-ALLY...

SLUMP
HUU-UUH?
IS HE BEING SERIOUS?!
AS ALWAYS, I CAN'T GLEAN ANYTHING FROM HIS FACIAL EXPRESSION.
BUT MARRIAGE ...?
GLANCE

I'M JUST SAYING I'M READY TO GO THAT FAR.
87
IS IT DIFFERENT FOR YOU, KAEDE-SAN?

GRAB
I WANT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH YOU...
...THAT GOES BEYOND ANY PROMISE.
SMEK
87
THAT WAY, I CAN FINALLY HAVE PEACE OF MIND.
...!

I...
PURSE
I CAN'T MARRY SOMEONE WHOSE NAME I DON'T EVEN KNOW...
CAPACITY OVERLOAD...
TRMBL TRMBL

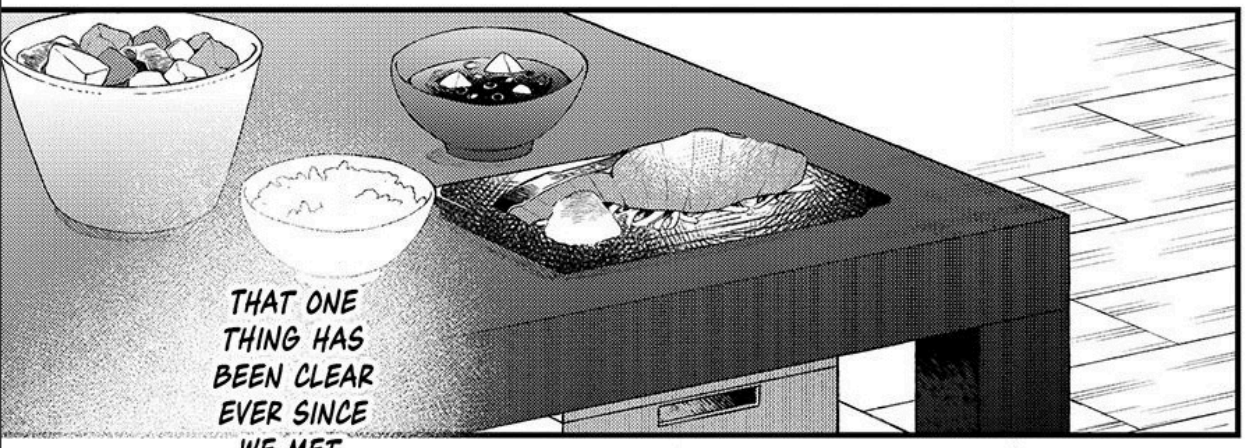
HUH?
THEN WANNA TAKE A LOOK AT MY DRIVER'S LICENSE?
DRIVER'S LICENSE?!
UWAH... (ANGUISH)

LEARNING IT THIS WAY'S A LITTLE...
HEH.
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?

IF THAT MOUTH'S GONNA BE ALL DEMANDING, MAYBE I'LL JUST SHUT IT UP.
87
SSSH
?!
FINE. OKAY.
I'M IN A SUPER GOOD MOOD RIGHT NOW, SO I'LL FORGIVE IT.
FWP

LET'S HEAD BACK...
...TO OUR PLACE.
HANA-KUN...

I CAN'T GET A GRIP ON HIM AT ALL.
YOU'RE WAY TOO FAMILIAR WITH THE STATE OF MY FRIDGE.
SO LET'S GO SHOP-PING.
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FOOD AT HOME.
SOMETIMES, HE ACTS MATURE AND WORLDLY-WISE...
...AND SOME-TIMES HE ACTS LIKE AN AFFECTION-STARVED CHILD.



IT'S AT HANA-KUN'S CORE...

NO, NO, NO, NO!
SLEEPING TOGETHER
I TOLD YOU WE'RE NOT DOING THIS!
AWWW...
I'M DUMB, SO I DON'T REALLY GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.
HYUCK
BLUNT
I'M SORRY, BUT THAT MOVE DOESN'T WORK NOW THAT I KNOW YOUR UNIVERSITY.
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
PULL

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M SUGGESTING WE MAKE LOVE RIGHT NOW.

WHERE HE'S TOUCHING ME FEELS WARM AND TINGLY.
PAT
PAT
I'LL STAY ONLY UNTIL YOU FALL ASLEEP.
NOW, NOW, NOW.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ?!
WAH.
RUFFLE
RUFFLE
GRAB

HANA-KUN'S THE KIND OF GUY WHO, IF THERE WERE 100 PEOPLE, 120 OF THEM WOULD TELL ME I SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM.

I KNOW THAT FULL WELL.

BUT...

...I FIND MYSELF WANTING TO KNOW...
...EVERYTHING ABOUT HANA-KUN, EVEN THE DARK PARTS HE CARRIES WITHIN HIM.
すぅ...
ZZZ
すぅ...
ZZZ
SHE SERIOUSLY FELL ASLEEP UNDER THOSE CIRCUM-STANCES?!
...

WHETHER IT'S MAR-RIAGE OR SEX...
...I CAN WAIT UNTIL SHE'S READY.
AND I GOTTA MAKE THAT CRYSTAL CLEAR TO HER.
87

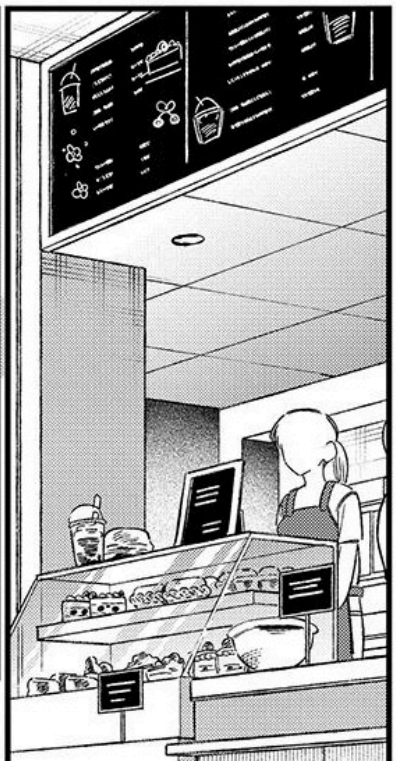
I'M GOING TO SCHOOL TODAY.
MM.
I'LL LOCK UP WHEN I LEAVE.
I'M LEAVING NOW.
WELL...

KAEDE-SAN'S SO FUNNY.

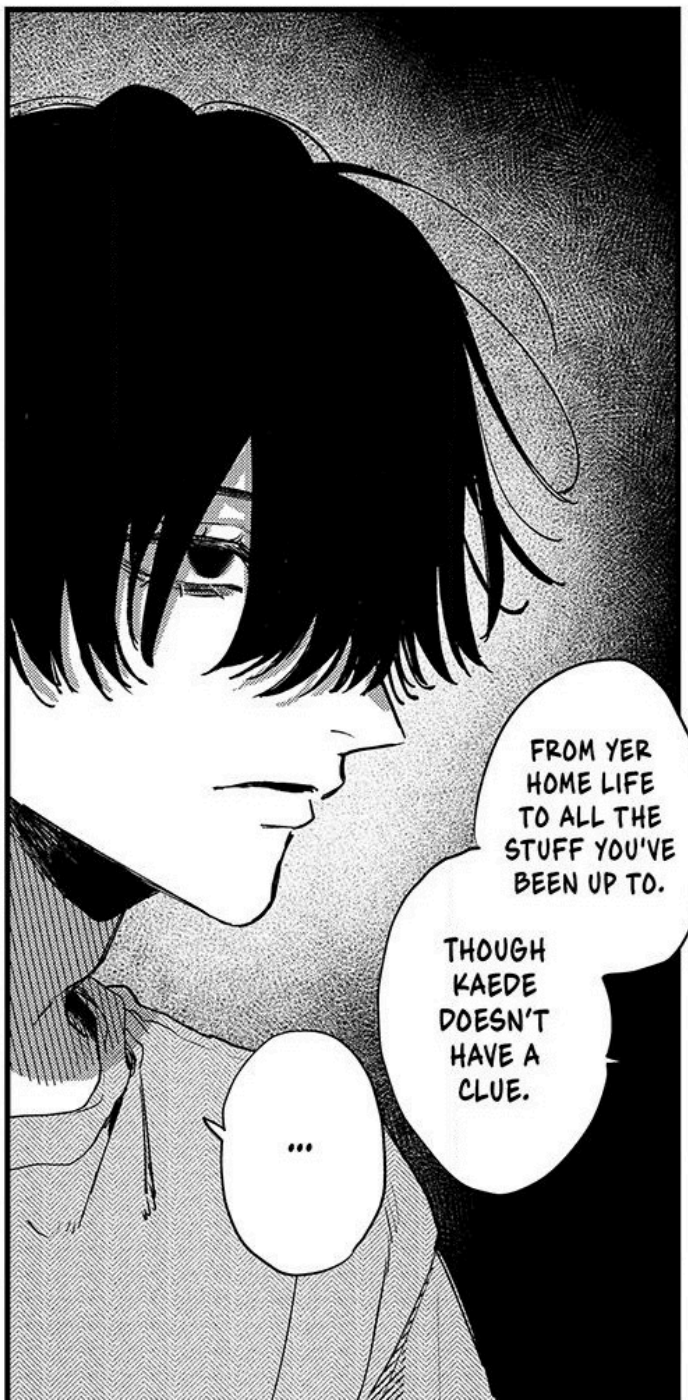
I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF HER.
THEY'RE ALL SO NOVEL TO ME.
HER REACTIONS AND CONDUCT.
THAT'S WHY...
HEY.

...I HAVE TO ELIMINATE ANY OBSTACLES.
WE HAVE TO TALK.

SILENCE
...



...
THANKS FOR THE OTHER DAY.
WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON THERE?
THOSE TWO HOTTIES ARE GIVING OFF A HOSTILE AURA...
MURMUR
PASSERSBY
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D RUN INTO YA IN THIS HUGE CAMPUS.
OH!
SO YOU'RE NOT SURPRISED WE GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL.
I WAS PRETTY SURPRISED MYSELF.
TWITCH
THAT'S CUZ I ALREADY KNEW.



WHY'S SOMEONE LIKE YOU WITH KAEDE?

WOW. HA!

I'LL TELL YOU, I'VE NEVER HAD ANYONE COME AFTER ME LIKE THAT BEFORE.

HOW BAD'S YOUR SISTER COMPLEX?

DON'T TURN THIS INTO A JOKE.
SHE'S A DIMWITTED DOORMAT WHO KEEPS GET-TING SCREWED OVER ALL THE TIME.
I WISH SHE'D GET A GRIP ALREADY.
BUT I CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER ALONE.
SHE'S MY PRECIOUS OLDER SISTER.
...
OLDER SISTER, HUH...
YOU MADE A REAL FOOL OF ME THE OTHER DAY, BUT...
ｶﾞﾗ...!!
KLAT

...THERE AIN'T NO BOND IN ALL THE WORLD STRONGER THAN THAT OF FAMILY.
I KNOW YER JUST PLAYIN' AROUND WITH HER, SO GET YER HANDS OFF KAEDE!
HUH?
I AIN'T OBSESSED.
I'M JUST WORRIED AS HER FAMILY-
FAMILY.
LET ME ASK YOU THIS.
WHY ARE YOU SO OBSESSED WITH KAEDE-SAN?

REALLY?
YOU SURE YOU'VE NEVER LOOKED AT KAEDE-SAN AS A WOMAN?
BLUSH
WHA ...?!

HMMM.
COURSE NOT! THAT'S DISGUSTIN'!
GH...
KLAT
I SEE.
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.
INITIALLY, I WAS IRKED.
BUT I'M RELIEVED TO SEE HE'S JUST A NOBODY CLINGING TO THAT SHALLOW FAMILY CONNECTION.
FINE THEN. I'LL BE TAKING KAEDE-SAN.
I TOLD YOU...
...TO QUIT GETTIN' INVOLVED WITH KAEDE!

THE JOY OF BEING CONNECTED TO SOMEONE THROUGH DEATH...
IF YOU'RE GONNA CLAIM THESE FEELINGS OF MINE ARE ONLY PLAYING AROUND...
...THEN YOURS ARE JUST PLAYING HOUSE.
...I'LL DIE WITH YOU.
PROMISE.

HUH?
I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU...
...BECAUSE YOU'LL PROBABLY NEVER UNDERSTAND.
NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY TO GET KAEDE-SAN'S ATTENTION, IT'S USELESS.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF EVER LETTING HER GO.
I'M THE ONE WHO'LL MAKE KAEDE OPEN HER EYES, MARK MY WORDS.

GRAB
GRK
...!
KOFF
KOFF
KLAT
WHEN THAT TIME COMES...
...I'LL JUST HAVE HER KEEP HER PROMISE.

I WANT KAEDE-SAN.
I WANT HER.
I WANT HER.
I WANT ALL OF HER.
NOT THAT I CAN LET HER...
...KNOW HOW I FEEL.

I WANT HER SO DARN BADLY, I FEEL I MIGHT LOSE MY MIND...
...AND WANT TO TEAR EVERYTHING TO SHREDS.
87
I'M TAKING KAEDE-SAN...
...DOWN WITH ME.